

## **Chairman Waukau's Notes August 2002**

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

We have reached the half way point of this administrative year and it is time to give an update on our accomplishments and work we have yet to do.

Probably our biggest accomplishment has been to get the Stumpage Ordinance passed. Stumpage, of course, is the payment to individual members for the use of their resources. This ordinance passed 7-0 at the July 25th meeting. There still is much work to be done, but this is a start. There may come a time when we have to have a complete separation between the Forestry Division and the Mill Division as there seems to be an inherent conflict when it comes to payment to tribal members for the resources.

Communication with tribal members, tribal entities, and any other entity that impacts on our people is a high priority of this administration. We have brought back the community meetings and will hold them four times a year. We will also meet with the Milwaukee and Chicago groups at least once a year. All Legislators have been asked to submit articles to the Tribal News giving updates on their views. We have established task forces to work closely with both Menominee County and the Menominee Indian School District. I always try to attend Shawano County Board's Tribal Affairs Committee. And, of course, I try to be in the office as much as possible. What is missing from this mix is exclusively appointing community members to the tribal committees. Under the new structure it is mainly community members that are the technicians within the tribal structure and as they serve on these committees they essentially wear two hats; that of a member of the community and as a member of the tribal organization. Periodically, we will have ad hoc committees to work on special projects such as the Relinquishment Committee is doing right now.

Other significant legislation that has been passed is a dog ordinance that gives greater protection to the communities. Seat belt legislation has also passed. We are also working very hard on an off-reservation gaming facility and that won't happen as long as Scott McCallum is governor so we are watching the September primary very closely.

I read with great interest Linda Caldwell's comments in the July 29th Tribal News posing the question, "Why can't the Menominees do what the Mississippi Choctow have done?" I agree with Linda that economic development is a key element to raising the quality of Menominee life. However, the Choctow tribal economy was fairly static until they built their two casinos, hotels, and golf courses. At this point their economy skyrocketed and they were able to more fully develop their work force and add more tribal businesses. What we all know is that it takes money to make money and that is why we are pursuing another casino. If you want to read more about this issue, check out Chief Phillip Martin's book entitled "The Choctow Revolution".

School will be starting much later this year, but there are already "back to school" sales being advertised and the fall seasons seems to start right after the powwow. It won't be long before we see the yellow school busses making their rounds and hundreds of Menominee youngsters trudging off to the first day of school.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau  
Honorable Tribal Chairman